

Environment and Natural Resources Management (ENRM) Program Area

Annual DPA Report to the Board

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Program and Partnership Branch
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ACRONYMS

ACIAR	Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
AfDB	African Development Bank
ASRO	Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CCIM	Centre's Committee for Information Management
CTL	Closing the Loop
CSPF	Corporate Strategy and Programming Framework
DANIDA	Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DFAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
DFID	Department for International Development
DGIS	Director General for International Cooperation (The Netherlands)
DPA	Director of Program Area
ENRAP	Electronic Networking for Rural Asia/Pacific
ESARO	Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
LACRO	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MERO	Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PBDD	Partnership and Business Development Division
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
PPB	Program and Partnership Branch
ROSA	Regional Office for South Africa
RUAF	Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry
RX	Resource Expansion
SARO	Regional Office for South Asia
SID	Special Initiatives Division
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SMC	Senior Management Committee
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNF	United Nations Foundation
WARO	Regional Office for Western Africa
WBI	World Bank Institute

Contents

- i. Executive Summary**
- 1. Program Area Overview**
- 2. Review of Current Activities and Achievements**
 - 2.1 Program Initiatives
 - 2.1.1 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Asia (CBNRM)
 - 2.1.2 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Latin America and the Caribbean (MINGA)
 - 2.1.3 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Africa and the Middle East (PLAW)
 - 2.1.4 Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (SUB)
 - 2.1.5 Cities Feeding People (CFP)
 - 2.1.6 Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (ECOHEALTH)
 - 2.2 Secretariats
 - 2.2.1 International Model Forest Network (IMFN)
 - 2.2.2 Environmental Management Secretariat (EMS)
 - 2.3 Corporate Projects
 - 2.3.1 Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI)
 - 2.3.2 EcoPlata
 - 2.3.3 Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
 - 2.4 Adding Value through Collaboration
- 3. Corporate Learning - Closing the Loop**
- 4. Conclusion - The Way Forward**
- 5. Annexes**
 - A - CBNRM
 - B - MINGA
 - C - PLAW
 - D - SUB
 - E - CFP
 - F - ECOHEALTH
 - G - IMFN
 - H - EMS
 - I - MPRI
 - J - ECOPLATA
 - K - CGIAR

i. Executive Summary

Natural resources and their productive and sustainable management by communities in the developing world remain absolutely fundamental to the aspiration of eliminating food insecurity and poverty. Whilst there are creative examples where recent progress has been made, examples which provide hope and guidance for the future, the stark reality is that little or no progress has been made towards the goals set at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 or the World Food Summit in 1996. 800 million (or more) people still live in extreme poverty.

Conscious of the substantive support provided to environment and natural resource management issues by many agencies and the sustained effort required to realise change on the ground and in peoples' livelihoods, IDRC has chosen to focus its work around six program initiatives which embody four principal themes, namely Community-based Resource Management through 3 regional PIs, The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, an Ecosystems Approach to Human Health and Urban Agriculture. In addition the Program Area works with two Secretariats (International Model Forests and the Environment Management Secretariat) and two corporate projects (Mining Policy Research Initiative and Ecoplata).

Each of these activities has its own specific set of goals, but there is a framework of common research approaches and problem foci across the Program Area as a whole that allows for collaboration, debate and planning for the future. This framework is structured around two axis. One axis describes key considerations that we recognize as essential in ENRM research and which we endeavour to mainstream into the thinking and research of our clients, the national research and development partners we support. The second axis describes the 'development arenas' in which our beneficiaries - the world's poor - live.

The bulk of this report is devoted to describing the progress that we are making in executing the agenda outlined in the PI prospectuses and work plans of the Secretariats and Corporate Projects. Given space limitations, I have only been able to select a few examples of where substantive progress and impact has occurred and where, on occasions, we have learned lessons and modified our strategies. In evaluating the impact of our work, we assess this from different perspectives namely, the changes we see in the livelihoods of our beneficiaries (the communities with whom we work), changes in the way our clients plan and execute their research and perhaps even more important, the impacts the outcomes of our work have on the thinking and actions of decision makers i.e Closing the Loop. From this latter perspective, we recognize that in all societies there is a broad range of decision makers who differ with regard to the nature of their authority and the scope of their influence, ranging from heads of households and community leaders to Heads of State. Given the interactive and inclusive nature of our approach, in many instances the influencing of decision makers (stakeholders) is an almost natural outcome of our work. Examples are provided throughout this report. In Asia for instance, the work of CBNRM has influenced the decisions of Ministries, Provincial Governments, National Research Systems and the way UNDP 'does business'. At a higher level, SUB's facilitation and coordination work behind the scenes had a direct bearing on a decision taken by African Heads of State at the African Union Summit in declaring a decade of celebration for traditional medicine. Other examples include MINGA's influence on CIDA's Honduras Desk planning strategy, PLAW's work with ECAPAPA in East and Central Africa on harmonizing seed policies, CFP's role in creating the Mayor's Working Group of Cities on Urban Agriculture as part of the Quito Declaration (signed by 33 cities) in Latin America and the influence of EcoHealth on the agendas of the Future Harvest Centres of the CGIAR in the creation of two system-wide initiatives on HIV/AIDS and Malaria. In addition, EcoHealth and International Model Forests are both currently playing a major role in influencing the position

that Canada will take at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg in 2002.

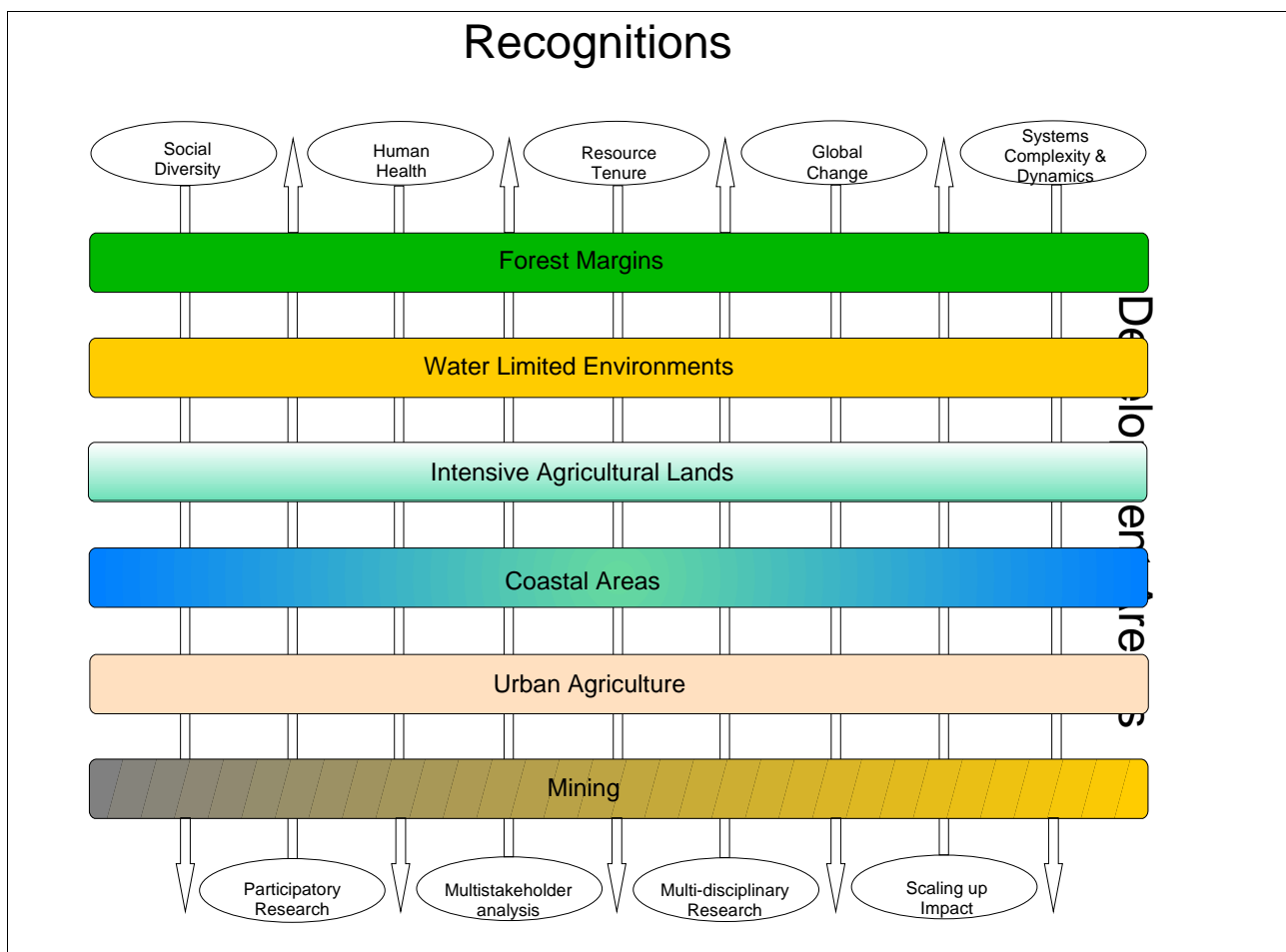
As indicated earlier, the commonalities of approach and foci that exist across the activities within the Program Area allow, where appropriate, substantive collaboration between PIs, Secretariats and Corporate projects as well as with other Program Areas. A special section of this report provides examples of such collaboration (see Table 2, page 15), but also indicates that there are, on occasions, constraints. For example, transaction costs can be high and joint planning trips difficult to arrange. Sometimes a given project does not have the same priority for both partners and even when it does it may be at different stages in their respective pipelines. We have discussed this within the Program Area and have agreed that we need to develop a clearer strategy rather than the somewhat opportunistic approach we follow at the moment. Such a strategy could include the identification of flagship areas of evaluation and learning, focus countries and the prioritization of thematic areas of research across regions and countries.

At the current stage of their Prospectuses, the PIs welcome a period of relative stability which allows them to get on with job, but at the same time we recognise the need to continually review our work and adjust and evolve it as is deemed necessary. In this context we have reviewed each PI's skill mix and identified "dream teams". We have used these consultations in seeking candidates to fill positions as they become vacant. SUB has taken on board Senior Management's call for greater focus and is reviewing its work on participatory plant breeding and medicinal plants, whilst PLAW is debating how it can more efficiently focus the use of its resources in the context of the tremendous biophysical and cultural diversity that exists in Africa and the Middle East.

I refer in the report to the 'steadfastness of purpose' that is required in supporting development research in the field of Environment and Natural Resource Management, but warn against equating 'long term commitment with 'continuing to do the same thing'! Major global change issues inevitably impinge on natural resource management decisions taken at much smaller scales. Many of these we already include in our program support, but over the last year we have discussed two additional change factors that we cannot ignore, namely HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and Climate Change. In the former area, we have identified the need to understand the impact that AIDS is having and will continue to have on the age and gender profile of rural and urban labour forces. As a start, we have agreed to fund a project that will examine this issue in selected countries in East and Southern Africa as part of the CGIAR systemwide initiative on AIDS convened by WARDA. On Climate Change, we shall use a recent review of IDRC's history of support in this field and recent publications by the Inter-governmental Committee on Climate Change as a basis of consultation with Canadian institutions, especially IISD, and our partners in the south to define our best course of action in the future. Early next year, the Future Harvest Centres of the CGIAR are holding a global consultation with NARS in the preparation of a substantive Global Challenge Program on climate change. IDRC will both support and attend that consultation as part of our own analyses.

Annual Report

Environment and Natural Resources Management Program Area



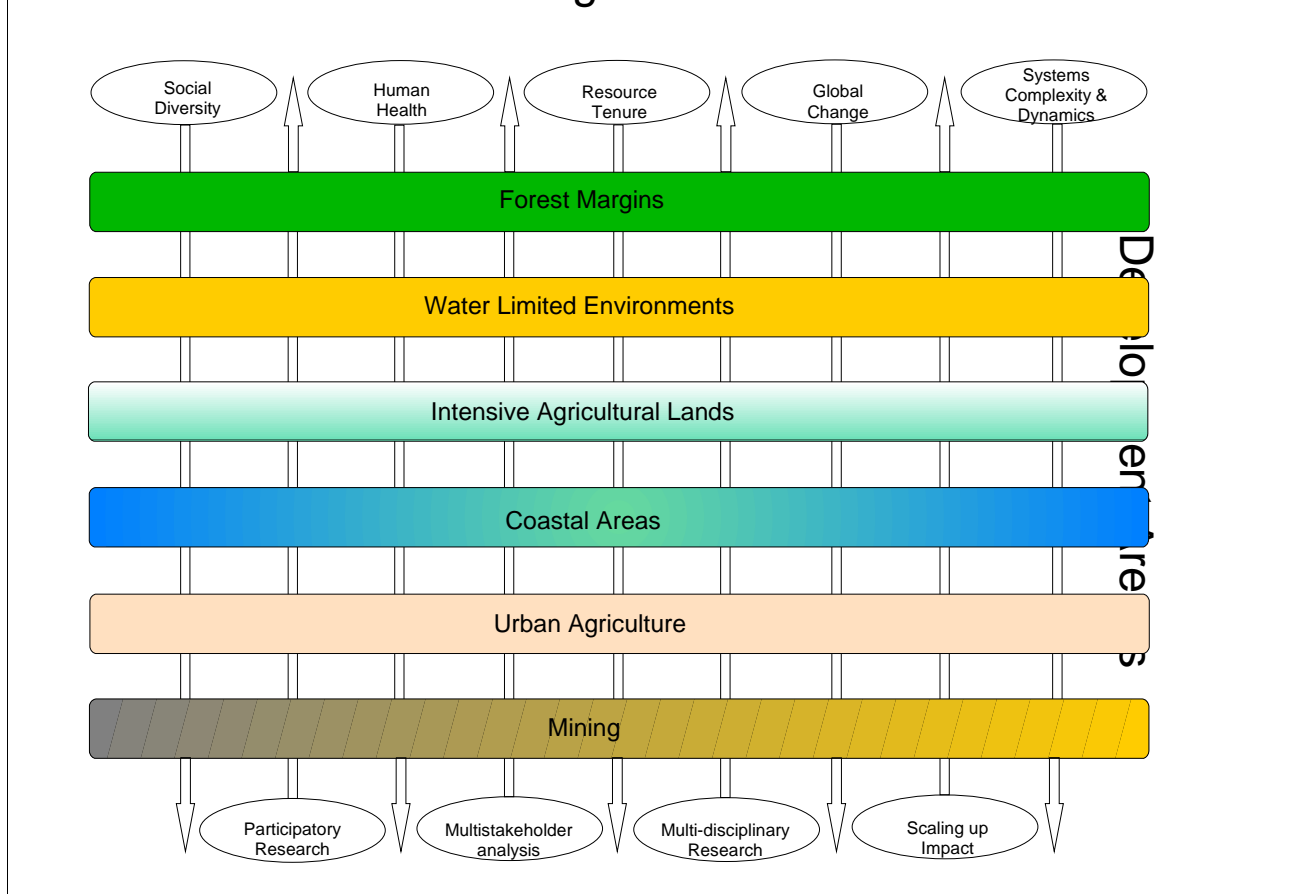
1. Program Area Overview

Natural resources and their successful management by families and communities in the developing world remain absolutely fundamental to the aspiration of eliminating poverty and food insecurity. If this challenge, and it is indeed a daunting one, is not addressed by all stakeholders in the North and South with the required steadfastness of purpose, there is little hope of even approaching the goals articulated at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 and the World Food Summit in 1996. We can anticipate that in Rome later this year (The World Food Summit: Five Years On) and in Johannesburg next year (The World Summit on Sustainable Development) there will be expressions of re-commitment and examples where progress has been made. Whilst such examples will provide hope and guidance for the future, the reality is that within the last 10 years the absolute number of people living in poverty (800 million) has changed little.

Given the scale of the challenge and the diversity of other stakeholders involved in supporting Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM) research and development in the regions where we work, IDRC has currently chosen to focus its support around six Program Initiatives which embody four principal themes, namely:

1. Community-based Natural Resource Management (in Africa and the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America),

Figure 2: A Descriptive Framework for IDRC's ENRM Program Area



2. The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity,
3. An Ecosystems Approach to Human Health,
4. Urban Agriculture.

In addition to these Program Initiatives, the Program Area also works with two secretariats (The International Model Forest Network Secretariat, and the Environment Management Secretariat) and two corporate projects (Mining Policy Research Initiative, and Ecoplata). The Director of the Program Area is also responsible for the management of a special CGIAR fund. Details of the rationale, goals and human and financial resources of these activities are given in annexes A to K.

The goals of each of these activities, and their geographic focus describe the specific contribution that each makes to sustainable ENRM. Nevertheless, there exist commonalities of considerations across all activities which allow the development of a framework which broadly describes what the Program Area does, and within which each PI, Secretariat and Corporate Project operates. This I have tried to depict in Figure 1. On the horizontal axis are key considerations that we endeavour to mainstream into the thinking and practice of our **clients**, the national research and development institutions with whom we work. These considerations, both research approaches (bottom axis) and ENRM issues (top axis), are those that we **recognize** as being essential components of any relevant and successful ENRM research strategy.

The vertical axis broadly describes the situations in which our **beneficiaries**, the communities,

live. I refer to these environments as **Development Arenas**, defined as "fields of development interest, activity and/or conflict". Whilst these development arenas are not mutually exclusive (ie. mining and urban agriculture occur in many situations) each development arena is subject to specific ENRM research and development challenges and opportunities that provide the focus for individual projects that we support. Within these broadly defined Development Arenas, we encourage our clients to work with those communities that are most marginalised and are least endowed with the resources to adapt to a changing world.

This framework attempts to describe where we are today, but we may expect refinements over time as our experience and thinking evolve. Such refinements may include added depth to focus to some of the key **recognitions** (see section 4) as well as consideration of the number of **development arenas** in which we work. In advocating such refinements, we must be careful to avoid a simple "add on" strategy. The constraint of both human and financial resources will necessitate choices.

2. Review of Current Activities and Achievements

2.1 Program Initiatives

2.1.1 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Asia (CBNRM)

Most people in Asia remain directly dependant on a productive natural resource base for their livelihoods. However, urban-biased industrial development and non-locally managed international investments in export-oriented resource development are leading to resource degradation. CBNRM supports research to help people living in ecosystems that face such increasing resource exploitation to manage and use their natural resources sustainably. This is being done in a way that recognizes that diverse groups of people (men, women, ethnic groups, various social classes) use natural resources in different ways and for distinct purposes.

In October 2000, CBNRM held a workshop in Guiyang, China which, for the first time, brought together representatives of all the PI research partners from around the region. Eighty participants attended this meeting with the objective of sharing and reviewing the progress of their research, and identifying common interests and research support agendas. Eight working groups were also convened to identify key issues and suggest concrete action for addressing these questions. The topics covered by the groups were: (1) NRM and social/gender analysis, (2) Micro-macro linkages in CBNRM, (3) Ecosystem health, (4) Sustainable livelihoods and linkages with CBNRM, (5) The design and use of multi-media tools, (6) Community forestry, (7) The role of participatory M&E, (8) Resource tenure and collective action. The output of this meeting will guide the team's efforts to further develop mechanisms for the research programme. A full report of this successful meeting is available (www.idrc.ca/cbnrm/documents/connected.pdf).

Also during the period being reported on, a number of first generation CBNRM projects wound down their initial phases and moved into new and re-defined research phases. Many of these projects have had very positive impacts, both with regard to our clients adopting more participatory and holistic research approaches and improved livelihoods for our beneficiaries. Examples of project outcomes and policy impact are given in Table 1 for projects in Bhutan, Cambodia, China, and Vietnam.

Table 1 also illustrates the considerable success the PI enjoys in attracting parallel donor funding to support its priority areas of research. In addition to that identified in the table, major parallel funding also comes from ACIAR, Oxfam (UK), and Rockefeller.

Following on from the Guiyang meeting and the successful outcome of many of the first generation CBNRM projects, research partners have requested additional support to help them better link their local-level research with higher level decision making. A regional workshop with resources for training and follow-up is planned for late September 2001 in Chang Mai, Thailand.

2.1.2 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Latin America and the Caribbean (MINGA)

The combined effects of globalization, structural adjustment and democratization has been to reduce the role of the state in directing development in Latin America and the Caribbean and

Table 1: Selected CBNRM Asia Program Outcomes and Impacts on Policy – 2000-2001			
Project Title	Donors / Partners	Outcome / Impact / Reach	Policy Linkages / Scaling Up
Bhutan CBRM - Wetland Production Systems Enhancing Productivity through Natural Res Mgmt (EPINARM)	IRRI SDC Min of Agric Renewable Nat Res Research Ctr, Bajo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - projects lead to better integration of forestry / agriculture / irrigation at watershed scale; - new methods endorsed by King (head of State and near deity), taught and shared across national agricultural research system; - new production systems introduced to benefit thousands of farmers throughout country; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participatory, farmer- and community-based research approach adopted by National Agricultural Research system; - Ministry of Agriculture exploring formal adoption of CBNRM as framework for resource mgmt
Cambodia Resource Management Policy (Ratanakiri) Ph 2 and 3	UNDP SIDA Province of Ratanakiri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - built local capacity and social capital to manage resource planning and user organizations; - 5 non-formal village education programs now taken over by UNDP-CARERE and delivered in 68 villages - documented improvements in livelihoods; security of tenure; political empowerment in NRM decision-making - direct beneficiaries: 22 government staff, 9000 villagers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - research directly influenced national land tenure legislation in Cambodia; - participatory planning and NRM processes introduced by the IDRC project have now been adopted by \$40 million UNDP governance project (SEILA / CARERE) for implementation in 12 provinces in Cambodia
China CBNRM in Mountainous Areas of Guizhou Province	Ford Foundation Guizhou Provincial Academy of Agricultural Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved production technologies, agricultural and horticultural practices and community based management processes in 6 villages (irrigation, crops and cropping systems, orchards, seeds) resulted in total irrigated area increasing by 35%; average rice yields have up by more than 40%, corn yields by more than 20%; improved drinking water systems and management processes have resulted in safe drinking water for more than 90% of the population (and greatly reduced time and labour costs for women). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provincial government has endorsed the participatory methods used in this project and is now exploring with the researchers and with other donors how best to "scale up" methods, tools and results through research and extension systems.
Vietnam Management of Biological Resources in Tam Giang Lagoon, Hue	CIDA Dalhousie Univ Hue Univ of Agriculture and Forestry Hue Univ of Science Prov Dept of Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developed new community based resource planning and conflict management processes, implemented at local level - researchers and provincial officials have a more sophisticated and critical understanding of participatory resource management issues - livelihood improvements: in 3 villages local people have higher incomes due to introduction of new crops, aquaculture techniques - methods and tools incorporated into univ curriculum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provincial fisheries department has revised management policies, extension practices, and planning procedures based on research results

to increase the number of stakeholders involved in natural resource management. Nevertheless, resource degradation and inequity continue to affect the majority of rural peoples. The basic premise of this PI is that a multi-stakeholder approach to natural resource management is essential for the development of equitable and sustainable solutions. See Annex B. In promoting such approaches, MINGA has paid increasing attention to research and development linkages, and to small grants programs that encourage researchers to explore multi-stakeholder approaches to NRM. For example, MINGA has promoted stronger participation by members of the multi-institutional Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Andes, CONDESAN in decision-making and planning, through electronic conferences, participation in the board, and cross-site visits. Two strong CONDESAN research teams have been supported to provide leadership and to showcase successful results, the MANRECUR (resource management) projects in Ecuador and the Arrowroot (Arracacha) project in Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador. The MANRECUR project has played a crucial role in bridging institutional boundaries to resolve water conflicts, plan better water management and educate people on key environmental issues. Participants in the arrowroot project have used IDRC Evaluation Unit's Outcome Mapping Methodology to articulate local people's development visions with CIP researchers' knowledge of potential improvements in arrowroot production and post-harvest processing. This has resulted in a very dynamic process of enhanced production and processing in tandem with strengthening of local institutions and decision-making/planning processes at the community level.

This year has seen the establishment of an "experimental" partnership with CIDA in Honduras. The team, working in close partnership with PBDD, has built on previous projects and members' experience in Honduras to develop a strong relationship with the country's National Program for Sustainable Rural Development (PRONADERS) and with the CIDA country desk officer. The latter led to an agreement between IDRC and CIDA for CIDA to pay for and host a Project Officer for the final year of the CIDA-funded Project for Support to Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Honduras. Discussions around joint programming with CIDA in Honduras to promote a knowledge-based learning approach to development are well underway. Should this novel approach prove successful, it opens the door to similar initiatives with CIDA in other countries world-wide.

MINGA has supported four widely publicized competitive grant processes. The first of these was funded in 1997-98, managed by the Red Internaccional de Metodologías en Sistemas de Producción (RIMISP) and focussed on participatory monitoring and evaluation. Lessons from this experience are documented in a book "Seguimiento y Evaluación del Manejo de Recursos Naturales" (Monitoring and Evaluation of Natural Resources) published in December 2000. In 1998-99 and 1999-2000 small grants programs were funded which focussed on integrated coastal zone management in the Caribbean and on conflict and collaboration in natural resources, the latter managed by the University for Peace in Costa Rica. These two programs will be completed in the autumn of 2001 and the PI is considering funding second phases of both programs. Following the success of the RIMISP small grants program, an agreement was reached with the Interchurch Coordination Committee on Development Projects (ICCO) of Holland to parallel fund three rounds over a period of four years of a new small grants program, the Fondo Mink'a de Chorlavi. The first call for proposals, on Collective Action and Improvements in the Living Conditions of Rural Populations, was made in June 2001.

MINGA has invested considerable effort during 2000-1 to develop a gender-strategy appropriate for the LAC research context, identifying training needs and activities that would help to mainstream gender in the work of team members, and research and training gaps in LAC. Team members received training in March 2001 to help strengthen their gender awareness and

programming skills. Many universities in LAC train graduate students in gender, but there is rarely any link to NRM issues. The PI has identified a pressing need for funding to support Masters level thesis research, and will fund a project this fiscal year to support work at three Universities.

2.1.3 Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Africa and the Middle East (PLAW)

Throughout Africa and the Middle East, rapid population growth has placed huge pressure on the more favoured agricultural lands and is forcing agriculture into increasingly marginal and risk prone environments. Accompanying loss of soil fertility, increased soil erosion and decreasing farm size are common. These combine with poor market access, failing infrastructure and an inadequate policy framework to place already marginalised rural communities under even greater threat. PLAW supports research and development activities that help communities enhance their food and water security through equitable, productive, and sustainable use of land and water resources.

Appropriately, Water Demand Management research has been a major initiative within this PI since 1997 and is of critical importance in many parts of Africa and the Middle East. Currently, the primary focus of this work is in North Africa and the Middle East in the form of the Water Demand Management Research Network. This network had three principal objectives:

- (a) to stimulate greater participation in applied WDM research,
- (b) to incorporate WDM principles and tools in water management policies, and
- (c) to attract other donors to support WDM research and policy analysis.

It soon became apparent that expectations with regard to (2) and (3) were not being realized. Based on internal consultations (PLAW, PBDD) and a survey of decision makers of Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, it was decided to shift the focus of the WDM initiative from the researchers and their networking to the decision makers directly and their information needs. Based on the survey, decision makers have identified four critical areas of WDM information needs, namely decentralization, water pricing, wastewater re-use and privatization. Working papers will be prepared on all these four topics. Thus the Water Demand Management Research Network was transformed into the Water Demand Management Forum, i.e., a mechanism for dialogue and identification of research demands in WDM as part of developing better water policies. This Forum will emphasize a more strategic approach to other donors for identifying and evolving productive partnerships. Further details can be found on the WDM website (www.idrc.ca/waterdemand).

Other work supported by PLAW has been successful in influencing important regional policies, for example the harmonization of seed policies across countries of East and Central Africa. Since 1999, the East and Central African Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis (ECAPAPA) with strong support also from USAID has been leading an effort to rationalize the ways seed business is conducted within countries and to harmonize seed policies, regulations, rules, procedures and laws across countries. For this, ECAPAPA brought together research scientists, decision makers in the private and public sector, customs and immigration officials and legal draftsmen to deliberate and agree on rationalizing a number of issues in the seed industry. Good progress has been made in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda with several important agreements, such as:

- i) the abandonment of the mandatory three years of testing for new varieties - officials agreed to accept one year of data from the plant breeders followed by one season of testing,
- ii) a reduction from 33 to 3 of the phytosanitary restrictions imposed until now on

the 10 most important crops in the region.

ECAPAPA is now expanding its activities to include Burundi, Congo Democratic Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Sudan.

As with other PIs, PLAW is furthering its efforts to mainstream attention to gender. The PI approved a CAD 490,000 small research grant project to the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA). The "Gender analysis for agricultural research programming and evaluation in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa" project will encourage research networks and national programs in the region to use gender information for improving the design, implementation and monitoring of research as well for the evaluation and dissemination of research results.

PLAW faces unique challenges. Not only are many of the African peoples the most impoverished in the world, but the diversity of biophysical and cultural environments in Africa and the Middle East is enormous. Add to this the tragic impact of HIV/AIDS and the endemic issue of poor governance. This issue was debated at the PI's annual planning meeting in Capetown (May 2001). It was recognized that an overriding trend is towards policies that promote higher production and lower-per-unit cost of natural-resources-based marketable products in order to compete in trade internationally and address poverty eradication goals domestically. For African Governments, these decisions are of high priority since the economic growth of 2.1% per annum across the region during the last decade is less than 1/3 the 7% required to meet poverty reduction targets they had set for the year 2015. Even with this in mind, the team recognized the wide prevalence of marginal and water stressed environments in Africa and the Middle East and their fragile and risk prone nature. It is here that some of the most vulnerable and impoverished communities live. The team agreed to increase its emphasis on these ecosystems during the remaining period of the current prospectus.

2.1.4 The Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (SUB)

The continuing loss of the world's biodiversity is of global concern, and is expected to accelerate as a result of climate change. Especially affected are the poor. It is estimated that between 80 - 95% of their livelihood needs (food, fuel, medicine, shelter) stem from biological products. SUB supports research that aims to enhance the capacity of local and indigenous peoples to continue to protect, access and sustainably use biodiversity and knowledge of biodiversity. It is a global program that focusses on two interrelated themes: agrobiodiversity and medicinal plants.

One important and successful component of SUB's work, the Crucible Project, is currently drawing to a close with the release of the Crucible books, *Seeding Solutions* at critical meetings of technical experts and policy makers under the Convention on Biological Diversity. SUB is working hard to establish the Genetic Resource Policy Initiative (GRPI) as a natural evolution of Crucible. While Crucible provided a forum for the debate and exchange of views of a wide range of stakeholders on policy options for genetic resources and IPRs (International Property Rights), GRPI builds on the outputs of that process with a focus on providing intellectual and research capacity building to developing nations as they seek to develop their own domestic regulations and policies on genetic resources. This is crucial given the obligations of the WTO-TRIPs agreement. Good progress is being made in the development of GRPI with substantive actual and verbal commitments from IDRC, GTZ/BMZ (Germany), DGIS (the Netherlands), Rockefeller, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the International Plant Genetic Research Institute of the CGIAR (IPGRI). A 5-year multi-donor

project managed by IDRC and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute is envisaged, based in Nairobi.

In the area of medicinal plants, an exciting event has occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa. At an IDRC-funded international conference on medicinal plants in Nairobi in 2000, participants formally requested African governments and the African Union to adopt a Decade devoted to the promotion and development of medicinal plants, traditional medicines, and pharmacopoeia in Africa. As a follow up, SUB coordinated and facilitated a process to sensitize African governments and the African Union Secretariat to this important issue and get it on the agenda of the African Union Summit held in July 2001. In the end, the 2001-2010 Decade for African Traditional Medicine was unanimously supported by all African Heads of State, and a declaration issued. This achievement not only provides a good example of how IDRC can influence decision making at the highest level, but also provides a very positive environment for us to expand our strategic role in supporting research in this field. SUB is now finalizing plans for an network on African Medicinal Plants with research in Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Ethiopia, Malagasy, Ivory Coast, Mali and Togo.

Many other SUB projects have also had far-reaching outcomes or impacts. For example, CIDA is planning to incorporate the work of an Ethiopian researcher on farmers' roles in maintaining sorghum biodiversity into their major food security program for Ethiopia. The results of another innovative project led by the Third World Network fed into the process that articulated an "African Position" on IPRs to the WTO.

The SUB team is playing an active role in mainstreaming gender issues into the work it supports. The team is working closely with IDRC's Gender Unit in the development of a research competition on the theme of Gender, Natural Resource Management, Agriculture and Globalization. The Gender Unit is also funding a panel at the Women's World 2002 Eighth International Interdisciplinary Congress to be held next year. The fact that the SUB team was able to nominate 9 female African SUB-project leaders for this panel is a good indication of the enhanced status of female researchers in Africa and of SUB's commitment to support them.

SUB continues to be active in providing opportunities for researchers to consolidate and share results. For example, a SUB-supported workshop on Approaches to Research on Uncultivated Foods was recently held in Zimbabwe. This innovative workshop brought together for the first time key researchers from both Africa and Asia to explore their different approaches on research in this area.

In addition, the team has embarked on evaluations of its two key themes. In agrobiodiversity, the focus is to build on the past nine years work to identify lessons-learned and possible gaps. In medicinal plants the aim is to develop a more focussed niche and related RX strategy for IDRC. The hope is that these will help fine tune future programming under this and subsequent CSPFs and help draw out further the linkages between the two themes.

2.1.5 Cities Feeding People (CFP)

The pressures of globalization is forcing cities to favour the more economically productive sectors. Restructuring and privatisation are making urban land and water less accessible for urban agriculture. CFP aims to keep urban agriculture on the policy agenda of municipalities through the support of development research that seeks to remove constraints and enhance the potential for urban agriculture interventions to improve household food security, income

generation, public health, and waste and land management for the benefit of the urban poor.

As one of the first international agencies to establish a program devoted to research on urban agriculture, IDRC (CFP) maintains its role as the lead agency coordinating the Support Group on Urban Agriculture (SGUA). Current members represent the FAO, the CGIAR's Strategic Initiative on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture, the United Nations Development Program, the Urban Management Program, German, Dutch, French, Canadian, Swedish and British development cooperation bodies. IDRC's role in the SGUA is recognized through its AGROPOLIS Graduate Research Awards program and by managing the information arm of SGUA through the Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry (RUAF).

AGROPOLIS has grown over the last three years, and remains an exciting scheme. Awardees themselves have been responsible for attracting additional parallel funding to support their work – seven awardees attracted \$340,000; and we are already seeing impact at the field level from some of the activities supported by AGROPOLIS. The scheme is also learning from its experiences and refining its approaches. For example, at the three-week regional AGROPOLIS regional training course last year in West Africa, it became apparent that course participants were stand-alone researchers whose interest in urban agriculture was largely academic or purely scientific. CFP were not sure how participants would follow up what they had learned in the course in a practical way that would be useful to city managers. In the next course, to be held in Latin America in November 2001, a representative from the city will be paired with the researcher to enrich the perspective and provide a measure of interest and institutional commitment to the final product developed by the students, an enhanced research proposal.

Furthermore, very few women candidates applied to the course in West Africa and their proposals were weak. It was found that a three-week commitment was difficult for women who had multiple professional and family responsibilities. This year particular attention will be paid to recruiting women candidates.

RUAF continues to play a leading role in information dissemination through the launching of the first international Urban Agriculture Magazine, the publication and promotion of case studies and through its website (www.ruaf.org/). The website is already an impressive depository of the activities of RUAF and like-minded partners and institutions: it features full text articles from the magazines and books, current event information, contacts and a sizeable annotated bibliography. Currently RUAF is producing a video of urban agriculture experiences on a few continents. They have successfully completed the filming in Dar es Salaam, and are planning the next segment in Dakar and Hanoi.

In June 2001, the first global summit event on urban food security and agriculture brought together the two UN agencies responsible for agriculture/food and cities – the Food and Agriculture Organization and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). During the Istanbul+5 official meetings, IDRC organized a parallel event "Food for the Cities: Urbanization, Food Insecurity and Urban Management". A presentation at this event was made by the *Urban Agriculture and Feeding the Latin American Caribbean Cities: Best Practices and City Consultation Project (04155)*. This project, led by the Urban Management Program (UMP) for the Latin American region is completing a prolific production of outputs. Manuals, guidelines, and videos have been produced as part of the project that is also generating impacts on policy agendas. Locally, this is apparent in Quito and Cuenca, and regionally it is evident through the creation of the Mayor's Working Group of Cities on Urban Agriculture. The Quito Declaration was signed in April 2000 by 33 cities.

2.1.6 Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (EcoHealth)

The vast majority of the world's poor are without access to formal health care systems, indeed this is a major component of poverty. At the same time it is increasingly recognised that human health cannot be de-linked from the way in which natural resources are managed. This PI seeks to exploit this potential and to improve human health by supporting trans-disciplinary research on the structure and function of stressed ecosystems (mining, agriculture and urbanization) on which people depend for their lives and livelihoods and by applying this knowledge to the development of appropriate and effective interventions and policies.

A key goal in this second phase EcoHealth Prospectus (2000-04) is to expand the PI's reach in Africa and the Middle East. Good progress has been achieved. Two regional consultancies have been co-funded between the PI, MERO and WARO to identify the institutions in each region with the capacity, interest and resources to carry out EcoHealth research. In addition, a workshop was held in each region to strengthen research capacity through proposal development. Small grants were awarded to enable the various research teams to validate research plans with key stakeholders. In MENA, a regional fund (USD \$500,000) was set up to sponsor research projects in partnership with the Ford Foundation, Cairo Office. Projects will deal with issues related to the PI's three programmatic stressors from local perspectives in North Africa and the Middle East. In WARO, discussions are on-going with the Commission du Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifique en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS) which has expressed an interest in contributing to a regional research fund and become involved in the organization of the call for proposals.

The other regional priority in this Phase 2 Prospectus is to strengthen the PI's programming in urban issues in Central America and the Caribbean. A similar approach to MERO and WARO is being planned for this fiscal year, albeit the research focus will be targeted to three priority tropical diseases in urban settings of that region: Dengue, Malaria and Chagas. A regional consultancy to identify capable and interested research institutions is on-going. A jointly organized and funded workshop between the PI and the National Institute of Public Health of Mexico is also being planned for November 2001. Positive leads of co-funding this work include UNEP, LAC Regional office and CIDA.

As well as being proactive in seeking resource expansion to support the three new regional thrusts, the PI, together with PBDD, has also taken the lead in an innovative resource expansion experiment with the United Nations Foundation. The WHO-UNEP-UNF-IDRC collaboration (750 000\$USD) involves support for regional and field level activities in the Middle East, Central America and West Africa, and their global policy application and dissemination. In addition, this fund will also support a major International Forum on Ecosystems Approaches to Human Health, scheduled for 2003 in Montreal. The Forum will build on regional workshops and provide a platform for the presentation of evidence that an ecosystem approach to human health produces effective and viable solutions. Organisers will compile this evidence to provide clear and practical examples for policy makers to be considered for scaling up opportunities at national and global levels.

The PI is working closely with Environment Canada on Canada's contribution to a series of international meetings which will take place in the period leading to this International Forum:

- March 2002 – Ministers of Environment and Health for the Americas,
- Spring 2002 – G8 Meeting of Ministers of the Environment, Canada,
- November 2002 – World Summit on Sustainable Development, South Africa.

As such, we anticipate that the EcoHealth approach to NRM will feature prominently in

Canada's priorities and response at these major international fora.

In addition to these substantive commitments, the PI is also active in working with the Future Harvest Centres of the CGIAR. A presentation was made ("Is there a doctor on the farm: Managing agroecosystems for better health") as a special session of Centres' Week in Washington, October 2000. The response was favourable. The CGIAR's Committee of Centre Directors established two system-wide initiatives (The System Wide Initiative on Malaria and Agriculture convened by IWMI and the System Wide Initiative on HIV/AIDS and agriculture convened by WARDA).

2.2 Secretariats

2.2.1 International Model Forest Network (IMFN)

Since the creation of the Secretariat at IDRC in 1995, more countries have become involved and more model forests have been created. There are now a total of 28 model forests established or in development in 11 countries representing a significant growth from its beginnings of 10 model forests in Canada. Globally, Model Forests today occupy a land area equivalent to Greece. But more important than these numbers is the impact that model forests have demonstrated. Last year, the IDRC Evaluation Unit undertook an assessment of the work of the IMFNS using the technique of "outcome mapping". This technique assessed the changes in attitudes and interactions involving: people to people; people and resources; and people and institutions. The resulting report showed that positive impacts and outcomes have occurred as a result of the work of the IMFN Secretariat on all fronts and at the level of model forests, governments and institutions. Model forests are changing attitudes on how people think about resource management and the benefits offered through collaborative approaches to the sustainable use and management of resources. However, achieving these successes has also been a learning process. The work of the Secretariat has shown that certain critical ingredients are required if it is to be successful - the key ones being real commitment on the part of governments to support and nurture the engagement of people in these model forests and the availability of "champions" to provide vision and leadership at the level of government as well as at the model forest level.

The Secretariat is in the last year of its current mandate and work is under way to increase the influence of model forests and the sharing of knowledge through networking. Consequently, the Secretariat is working with country partners to build capacity on a regional basis for model forest development and networking. Discussions are underway to develop regional networks first in Latin America, subsequently in SE Asia, and at a further point in time in Africa. IMFN is currently negotiating with CIDA for substantive and long-term funding to support these regional thrusts.

While building the process internationally, the Secretariat continues to be active in building linkages with a broader range of institutions in Canada. Currently, the Secretariat is working closely with DFAIT in the preparation of Canada's report to the World Summit for Social Development next year in Johannesburg.

2.2.2 Environment Management Secretariat (EMS)

EMS seeks to promote research to leverage debate leading to the formulation and evaluation of urban environmental management policies to improve the governance of medium and small cities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The EMS has continued its specialization in managing the small grants program to develop knowledge by municipal governments in association with local research centres. This programme has been recognised as a mechanism of interest by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The Bank supports a project managed by the EMS to strengthen the capacity of the Central American municipal governments in creating partnerships with local research centres (CAD \$ 420,000).

The agreements signed with the MercoCities and the Federacion de Ministerios del Itmus de Central America (FEMICA), and the definition of a working framework with the Association of Municipal Governments of Italy and the Canadian Federation of Municipalities have allowed for an important change in the scale of intervention of the EMS at the regional and international level.

In February the EMS organised the "International Forum on Managing Sustainable Urban Development in Latin America and the Caribbean - The Contribution of Knowledge Networks". In response to the priorities expressed by municipal governments, the EMS will organise a public policy network on alternatives for environmental management in the case of irregular settlements in medium-sized LAC cities. The substantial progress made towards the organisation of an effective regional network on the development of public policies for the management and follow-up of public-private partnership to deliver municipal environmental services will become one of the focus areas in the coming years. The proposal to evolve into a multi-modal knowledge network, including new tools to encourage communication and debate on sustainable urban development issues in LAC was presented and supported by participants at the forum. As a results of this, the Italian cooperation and UNDP will support this structure and activities of the EMS (CAD \$ 1,350,000 and \$ 300,000 respectively).

2.3 Corporate Projects

2.3.1 Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI)

MPRI focusses on supporting applied research and multi-stakeholder processes related to mining and sustainable development in mining regions and communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Experience has shown that when resources are limited, such support can best be achieved through the formation of focussed regional networks. To this end, MPRI is working closely with the global Mining, Minerals and Sustainable Development Project (MMSD). MPRI, together with the Centro de Investigacion y Planificacion del Medio Ambiente (CIPMA) is acting as the coordinator of the MMSD regional project and has formed research groups and facilitated activities in Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador. To date 42 workshops have taken place with a range of interest groups. The output of this process will be a comprehensive draft agenda for policy, research and training activities. The leadership role that MPRI is providing in the discussion of mining and sustainable development in the region is allowing it to expand its scope and to become an important source of both information and knowledge and applied research in this field. It is also assisting in identifying and consolidating relationships with key institutional partners who are interested in working with IDRC.

At present MPRI is working with CIDA and the Ford Foundation on research network projects: the "Co-management of mining impacts in the Sierra Central of Peru (CIDA) and "Community Development Activities by Mining and Other Resource Extraction Projects in Latin America and

the Caribbean" (Ford Foundation). In looking to the future, MPRI will give increased emphasis to artisanal and small-scale mining as a key poverty alleviation activity. In doing so, MPRI will seek to build links with other international and national donors working in this field such as the World Bank and DFID. MPRI's Director has been appointed as a member of the expert advisory group of DFID's consultative group on artisanal and small-scale mining (CASM).. In this context, it is anticipated that MPRI's regional perspective and strong local networks would provide substantive added value to such initiatives.

2.3.2 EcoPlata 3: The Health of the Rio

This corporate project seeks to develop a multi-disciplinary approach to improve the coastal resource management in the Rio de la Plata fluvio-marine ecosystem separating Uruguay and Argentina.

EcoPlata continues to work closely with local governments and communities on important local issues. Recently such issues have included:

- a difficult land use conflict between squatters and the local government over a coastal area to the west of Montevideo with wetlands of high recreational value,
- the development of a plastics recycling initiative with the local schools to raise community awareness of plastics pollution along the coast,
- several studies to address beach erosion problems, and
- conflicts related to the settlement of artisanal fishermen along the shoreline.

Such initiatives increase the visibility of the program with policymakers and the media and strongly motivate many of the researchers who increasingly realize the value of participatory research with a systems perspective.

The highlight of the year was the conference "ECOPLATA 2001", an event organized to:

- (a) raise national awareness of the importance of appropriate coastal management,
- (b) present the results to date and discuss them with international experts, and
- (c) attract other donors to contribute to the next phase of the program.

The event was opened by the President of the Republic, the Minister of the Environment, the Mayor of Montevideo and IDRC's President. International experts strongly endorsed the project's approach and methodologies. Stakeholders from local governments, NGOs, schools, neighbour commissions from the coastal region actively discussed the results and the next steps. In closing the event, the Minister of the Environment pledged continuing Uruguayan support.

2.3.3 Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

IDRC has a substantive and long association with Future Harvest Centres which are supported by the CGIAR. Our current programme support to the Centres and their partners stands at 41 projects with 13 centres with a total value of \$13.89 Million. Part of this total consists of a special fund of \$400,000 which IDRC sets aside each year to provide added weight and flexibility to our overall support.

In the current year, the bulk of the fund is being used to support collaboration in East and Southern Africa between the System-wide Initiative on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture (led by the International Potato Center - CIP) and Cities Feeding People. Both these initiatives are seeking to establish and support urban research networks, and the funds (\$350,000 over a 3-year period) will be used to enable CIP to appoint a regional coordinator who will be responsible for promoting collaboration and bringing these two networks under one umbrella.

The coordinator will be based in Nairobi, where CIP and IDRC each has a regional office.

\$50,000 of this fund has also been used to support an International Workshop on Integrated Natural Resource Management held at CIAT headquarters in Cali at which all 16 centres were present. IDRC's support was specifically used to cover the attendance of national scientists from the regions in which we work.

2.4 Adding Value through Collaboration

In an ENRM meeting in Montevideo in February 2000, the desirability and potential benefits of collaboration between PIs and across Program Areas was discussed. Many potential opportunities were identified and examples of current collaborative activities are given in the matrix of Table 2. Although many of the "Montevideo" opportunities came to fruition, many did not. During our Program Area brainstorming session in April of this year, we reviewed this issue and identified some of the most common constraints faced in developing collaborative projects, for example:

- (a) joint funding not always in synergy with pipeline status of different PIs,
- (b) collaborative planning trips hard to organize,
- (c) "transaction costs" quite often very high,
- (d) focus/priority of opportunities not equally shared by PIs,
- (e) no clear responsibility for follow-up on initial idea.

Whereas it is clear from Table 2 that many positive collaborative activities are in place, the group recognized a need for a clearer strategy for building synergies, both within and across program areas. Key elements of such a strategy may include flagship areas of evaluation and learning, identification of focus countries and prioritization of common thematic areas of research across regions and countries.

Table 2: Inter-PI Linkages				
	MINGA	PLAW	CFP	ECOHEALTH
C B N R M	- collaborating with the UBC to produce a course for middle managers on integrated watershed development, that will use case studies from former and current IDRC projects in Asia, Latin America and Africa (with PLAW)	- development of joint capacity building program in Participatory Development Communication for researchers, associated stakeholders and resource persons working in NRM with communities	[CFP not active in Asia.]	[EcoHealth not active]
M I N G A		- also with CBNRM, development of "Stakeholder Analysis Tool" for identification and management of NRM conflicts	- gender analysis training workshop in Cuba - use of MINGA and SUB interns to facilitate gender mainstreaming by CFP team	- joint workshop with development of a research strategy for research
PLAW			- joint project on "Improving the rural-urban nutrient cycle through peri-urban agriculture" in Ghana (with IWMI)	- joint project on Sustainable Healthy Communities Malawi
CFP				- also with EMS, joint Urban Environment Guatemala
ECO-Health				
SUB				

3. Corporate Learning - Closing the Loop (CTL)

IDRC has defined CTL as an activity "... aimed at increasing the awareness, understanding and ownership of research outputs by decision-makers and society in general, thereby enhancing the influence of the work that we support." We are also aware that in all societies, there exists a broad range of decision makers who differ with regard to the nature of their authority and the scope of their influence. In trying to influence such decision makers, we recognize the need to involve them early in the research process as is inherent in the multi-stakeholder and participatory approach we advocate.

Given the interactive nature of our approach, in many instances influencing decision makers (stakeholders) is an almost natural outcome of the work we support. Examples of this can be seen for CBNRM in Table 2 where decisions within Ministries, Provincial Governments, Provincial Departments, National Research Systems, National legislation and UNDP have all been influenced by research we have supported. At a "higher level", SUB's work behind the scenes in Africa had a direct bearing on decisions taken by the Heads of State at the African Union Summit. At another level, almost all our participatory research with marginalised communities will result in the greater empowerment of these communities with regard to wider options, more informed choices and better decisions with regard to ENRM. Other examples of successful CTL outcomes can be found in this report and include:

- MINGA's influence on CIDA's Honduras Desk programming strategy,
- PLAW's work with ECAPAPA on seed policies,
- CFP's work through the UMP Project on urban policy agendas and the Quito Declaration,
- EcoHealth's influence on Canada's preparation for the Summit of the Americas and WSSD.

In summary, we see a broad range of impact on decision makers emerging from our work. However, we also recognize that CTL should not be seen as an "end point" of research, but as one step along the research and development continuum. We also are aware that influencing decision makers alone does not guarantee positive development outcomes or the scaling of the impact of the work that we support. We are currently involved in a Program Area debate on how we can most efficiently address this issue.

4. Conclusion - The Way Forward

At the start of this report, I referred to the "steadfastness of purpose" that is required in supporting and executing research on the environment and natural resources management. We fully recognize that the search for solutions (be they improved technologies, institutional innovations or more informed policy making) is a long term undertaking. It would be a mistake however to necessarily equate "long term commitment" with "continuing to do the same thing". Major global changes are taking place today which will inevitably impact on the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources by future generations. We must understand what these future impacts are likely to be, and work with our clients in planning our research accordingly today. Two such major areas we need to build more clearly into our agenda are the impacts of HIV/AIDS and climate change.

Since the first noted outbreaks of HIV/AIDS- related diseases in 1981, the proportion of human population affected by AIDS has escalated at unprecedented rates. HIV/AIDS is no longer just an urban or health issue: it has become a major catastrophe to human development particularly in the sub-Saharan Africa, and is spreading globally at alarming rates. Unlike other diseases,

HIV/AIDS strikes hardest at those who belong to the most economically productive segment of the population (age 15 to 49), including farmers and farming families, skilled and trained agricultural labour force. In Africa, AIDS has already had a severe impact on rural and urban labour forces both with respect to their age/gender profile and on the ability of that labour force to manage natural resources. In working with our clients to produce sustainable ENRM innovations for the future, we need to understand that impact. Consultation within IDRC has determined this as one priority area for support. As a result, our EcoHealth PI has already agreed to fund a project proposal from the International Service for National Agricultural Research which will focus on this issue in selected countries in East and Southern Africa. This proposal forms one component of a "CGIAR Systemwide Initiative on the Impact of HIV/AIDS on Agriculture, Agriculture Research and Development" convened by WARDA.

Global change is comprised of a multi-faceted set of influences that directly or indirectly affect the options and decisions that communities take on managing natural resources. Climate change is one key component of these influences. IDRC has had a long and varied history of response to climate change dating from our involvement during the 1980s through our Energy Research Group, through our preparation for the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, our response to Agenda 21 in the mid-1990s to our current collaboration with the International Institution for Sustainable Development. Coinciding with this time span, the ability of the global scientific community to analyse and predict the impacts of climate change has increased dramatically - a trend that will almost certainly continue. The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change provides an excellent and updated review and analyses of this evidence and makes it easily available as summaries for policy makers through its web site (www.ipcc.ch). The impact of climate change is already being felt in contrasting ways by communities world-wide (for example, *Inuit Observations on Climate Change*, a video produced by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and released in 2000). There is now a high degree of certainty that this trend will increase and amplify in the coming decades, and that it will be the most vulnerable communities in the regions in which IDRC works that will be most affected. In many instances, these are the very communities with whom we and our partners work in seeking innovative strategies for sustainable natural resource management. It thus seems logical, given our resource constraints, that IDRC's future involvement in climate change research should build on current activities rather than instigate special new initiatives. We now need to consult with our partners (including IISD) to determine the most useful and cost efficient path for us to follow. Part of this consultation will include support to and participation in a CGIAR / NARS (National Agricultural Research Systems) meeting in 2003 in Nairobi as the Future Harvest Centres seek to develop a Global Challenge Programme on climate change.

During the reporting period, we have had internal consultation amongst the ENRM PIs on staffing requirements, or "dream teams". As Program Officer vacancies occur, we are using these consultations as a basis for deciding the skills and time allocations desired in new appointments. Currently most PIs are well staffed, but we would like to see added strength in Cities Feeding People which currently has a small, albeit dedicated team based in Ottawa. We would envisage that such a position would be based in Nairobi to provide added strength to that PI's new focus in Africa. In addition, next financial year, MINGA will only have one "home PI" program officer in Ottawa (the Team Leader) and one based in Montevideo. We would like to see added strength, based in Ottawa to contribute to programming in both Central and South America.

Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)

Team Leader Stephen Tyler	Approved Budget 2001-2002: \$2,200,000	Full-time Equivalents: 3.95
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Stephen Tyler	Reg'al Planning/Inst.Econ.	85%	UVic
Program Officer	Guy Bessette	Dev't Communications	30%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Claire Thompson	International Relations	60%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Brian Davy	Aquatic Biology	20%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Elizabeth Fajber	Medical Anthropology	40%	SARO
Program Officer	John Graham	Agricultural Economics	80%	ASRO
Program Officer	Ronnie Vernoooy	Rural Sociology	80%	Ottawa

Project Profile: Tapping Into Community Resources in China

IDRC Funding: CAD\$448,201 (Phases I and II)

Responsible Officer: John Graham

In the remote highlands of southwest China's Guizhou province, a CBNRM project has helped villagers secure a steady domestic water supply. It is also helping them to turn wasteland into a profitable peach orchard, and to reforest degraded lands. The CBNRM approach recognizes that people who live closest to resources understand them best, and have the greatest stake in using and managing them. To be effective, innovations must be built on existing local knowledge and practice, rather than imposed from outside.

In 1995 researchers from the Guizhou Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GAAS), supported by IDRC, began working with two villages in Changsuan county to consider how to enhance management systems for local natural resources. Through participatory research techniques, villagers examined how households and communities used natural resources, and catalogued the various aspects and impacts of their practices. Villagers and researchers then helped identify local policy, institutional and technical changes that could improve their lives, while they continued to manage their lands, water, forests and other resources sustainably.

In Dongkou and Xiaoxhai villages for example, villagers identified the household water supply as one of their biggest problems. In the dry winter season, women traveled two or three kilometres for water, each taking a half of every day to bring back barely enough water for a family of four. Researchers, together with village experts, helped villagers engineer a system to place a water tap in each of the community's 50 households. The villagers themselves built the system and set communal rules for maintaining it, as well as for collecting meter fees. These fees were pooled for repair and maintenance and for a community-elected manager's salary. They were also used to create a "revolving village fund" that is used for other development needs.

Villagers redirected the labour saved to better attend to family needs, to augment family income and to increase food production. For example, villagers planted a peach orchard on hitherto-unfarmable land. Researchers then introduced new varieties of peach trees with better economic and market potential. As with the domestic water system, villagers built the orchards, and set rules for managing them. They next applied the approach to reforestation efforts, planting 45,000 trees in two years. The forestry rules set have enabled villagers to move towards a management system that is more sustainable — in terms of both the existing forests

as well as replanting and regenerating activities.

Provincial government interest in the GAAS project accelerated when officials realized the home-built water system for domestic and supplementary irrigation kept working where state-built ones had quickly decayed, and recognized that villagers' sense of ownership was key. An external evaluation confirmed the success of the project. In 1998, a follow-up began transferring the approach to four more villages, helping the GAAS project team contribute to a broad range of CBNRM innovations in Asia.

Building on these achievements, the GAAS team is now elaborating a new initiative (beginning 2002) to promote the CBNRM methodology and principles of good practice at the local and provincial government levels. IDRC and the Ford Foundation intend to support this scaling up proposal.

Managing Natural Resources - Latin America and the Caribbean (MINGA)

Team Leader Simon Carter	Approved Budget 2001-2002: \$2,200,000	Full-time Equivalents: 4.15
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Simon Carter	Geography	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Brian Davy	Fisheries Bio/NRM	10%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Daniel Buckles	Sociology/Anthropology	50%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Gilles Cliche	Geography	30%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Gisele Morin-Labatut	Lib. and Info. Sciences	25%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Helen Raij	Agronomy/Food Engineer. and Biotech.	50%	LACRO
Research Officer	Lisa Burley	Env'tal Studies/Anthro. /Int'al Studies	50%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Luc Mougeot	Geography	<10%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Stephen Baranyi	Political Science	30%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Vacant		60%	LACRO

Project Profile: Indigenous Perspectives on Consultation and Engagement by Mining Companies: Colombia and Guyana

IDRC Funding: CAD\$248,988

Responsible Officer: Gisele Morin-Labatut

The interaction of communities, mining enterprises and the state is a key area for research in Latin America and the Caribbean, and there is an increased understanding of the value of consultation and engagement as a means of establishing a more socially responsible, and environmentally and economically sustainable industry. The research carried out by the North-South Institute, the Instituto de Estudios Regionales (Antioquia, Colombia) and the Amerindian Peoples Association (APA, of Guyana) is based on the premise that the development of effective processes for consultation and engagement requires a more thorough understanding of the perspectives of indigenous peoples, who make up a large proportion of communities affected by mining in the region. The overall objective of the project is to analyse the perspectives of indigenous communities in Colombia and Guyana on consultation and engagement in the mining sector, to assess practices, and later develop guidelines for multi-stakeholder consultations that respect indigenous people.

Both the Guyanese and Colombian research teams established national indigenous advisory committees to guide the process, select case study sites, finalize the design of the research process and review results. Extensive community consultations were carried out in regions where mining activity is critical.

Key issues in Guyana include discrepancies between the lands that are officially titled and those the Amerindians consider their traditional homeland and actually use and occupy; the impact of mining, particularly on women and youth; decision-making within the communities; the role APA should take in the future (promoting alternative livelihoods and community awareness of the environmental and social impacts of mining); and the need for APA to link up with the emerging

international network of mining affected groups in coordinating advocacy related to Rio+10. Team members also interviewed key interest groups in the mining sector, including the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission; the Prime Minister in his Capacity as Minister for Mines; the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association; and Vanessa Ventures of Vancouver.

In Colombia, the main issues are the need to deal with both conservation (biosphere reserve, world heritage site, national parks) and large-scale industrial development initiatives affecting traditional homelands. Indigenous communities are also concerned by the role and impact of armed factions and narco-traffickers on decisions affecting their homeland. As in Guyana, the difference between lands that are titled to the Indigenous people and those that they actually use is a crucial issue. Participants have used project workshops to begin to develop their own strategy on consultation and engagement, and to articulate their views on development, autonomy and territoriality.

People, Land and Water (PLaW)

Team Leader Luis Navarro	Approved Budget 2001-2002: \$3,400,000	Full-time Equivalents: 4.30
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Luis Navarro	Agr/Resource Economics	100%	ESARO
Program Officer	Guy Bessette	Edu Sciences/Edu Tech.	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Innocent Butare	Experimental/Applied Ecol.	60%	WARO
Research Officer	Zsofia Orosz	Political Science	20%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Ola Smith	Animal/Poultry Sciences, Tropical Vet. Medicine	60%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Vacant		30%	ESARO
Program Officer	Vacant		30%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Vacant		60%	MERO

Project Profile: Résolution des conflits d'usages des ressources en eau et communication participative pour le développement dans le bassin du Nakambe

IDRC Funding: CAD\$250,000

Responsible Officer: Guy Bessette

As countries develop, people start to compete more for scarce resources such as water. Scarcity and various potential uses create conflicts that obstruct the proper management of the resource, and further limit its benefits to the affected people. In the case of the Nakambe river basin in Burkina Faso, researchers have been working with 19 villages to learn about the different conflicts faced when accessing and using the very limited water resources. Various options to deal with the conflicts by the villagers were assessed in Phase I in order to improve the management of water and the benefits obtained from it. Based on this learning experience, in the current project the researchers are helping with the scaling up of the management models to other villages across Burkina Faso. Deriving from these concrete efforts, a general objective of this project is to help establish in Burkina Faso a permanent program for the resolution of conflicts around competitive uses of water, and thus improve its management and benefits at community level. The premise is that by improving the management of its water resources, communities will be able to approach more successfully their objectives of food security, nutrition and health, employment and income. This R&D effort is based on participatory research approaches that are being facilitated through the use of Participatory Development Communication principles and tools, which PLaW is strategically promoting in different countries.

In the same way that the participation of the villagers was key to the success of the original research, the participation of key decision makers and implementing agents is a key for success in this project and any follow up. For this reason, the research team signed a collaborative agreement with the program "Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau du Burkina Faso" within the Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Eau and will develop an operational plan with the National Water Program to follow-up on the research. The research has also received parallel funding from a CIDA program in Burkina Faso as well as from the Canadian Embassy local initiative fund.

Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (SUB)

Team Leader Brian Davy	Approved Budget 2001-2002: \$3,000,000	Full-time Equivalents: 5.10
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Wardie Leppan	Political Science	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Brian Davy	Fisheries Bio/NRM	70%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Erin O'Manique	Political Science	50%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Elizabeth Fajber	Medical Anthropology	40%	SARO
Program Officer	Daniel Buckles	Sociology/Anthropology	50%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Ronnie Vernooy	Rural Development	20%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Innocent Butare	Ecology	40%	WARO
Program Officer	John Graham	Agricultural Economics	10%	ASRO
Program Officer	Pierre Zaya	Metallurgy	80%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Vacant		40%	LACRO
Program Officer	Vacant		20%	MERO

Project Profile: Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Sorghum Genetic Diversity and Farmer Selection *in-situ*

IDRC Funding: CAD\$149,999 (FY 2000-2001)

Responsible Officers: Wardie Leppan and Ronnie Vernooy

During Ethiopia's peak drought years of the 1980s, the amount of food grown by local farmers dwarfed the amount of food aid provided by humanitarian organizations, according to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization, US AID, and the World Food Programme. This is because of the wide diversity of crop varieties which underpins the country's agricultural resilience. A critical crop from a food security perspective is sorghum. During the drought years, the Ethiopian Gene Bank, in collaboration with USC Canada (formerly the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada), launched the "Seeds of Survival" program to rescue, multiply, and distribute to farmers endangered or threatened genetic materials. Under this program and with support from IDRC, Dr. Awegechew Teshome conducted research on the factors influencing the maintenance of crop genetic materials in the central highlands of Ethiopia in the period 1992-93. He counted a total of 60 distinct varieties (including landraces¹) of sorghum grown in five different communities.

With funding from SUB last fiscal year, and in collaboration with Addis Ababa University, the Ethiopian Gene Bank, Carleton University, and the University of Ottawa, he and his colleagues returned to the same farmers and fields during the 2000-01 growing seasons to determine whether the genetic diversity of sorghum was stable, increasing, or decreasing. Results show that there are now 68 landraces grown in the five communities, possibly due to an increase in the average number of "selection criteria" — such as drought resistance, grain yield, threshability, and milling — used by individual farmers. This means that local farmers are

¹ A landrace is a variety that was developed by farmers for specific local environments (also known as "folk varieties" or "peasant varieties").

demanding more from the sorghum varieties they plant today than they were in the early '90s. However, the research findings indicate that the survival of many crop varieties is in jeopardy because most landraces are being grown on fewer and fewer fields, which are shrinking in size. Over the last decade, many families have seen parts of their fields redistributed, which means they are more reluctant to invest in good agricultural practices, such as soil and water conservation management. The current trend of farmers' lack of security over land tenure could be influencing the level of genetic diversity on each field and placing the agricultural biodiversity of this region at risk.

The project leader recommends addressing tenure issues, as well as the introduction of community gene banking and participatory conservation activities to save Ethiopia's remaining landraces. The research results are being written up and a workshop involving stakeholders and policy makers to discuss the results is planned. This project has attracted the attention of the CIDA Ethiopia desk, who are planning to incorporate the findings into the food security program that they are developing in conjunction with the Ethiopian government.

Cities Feeding People (CFP)

Team Leader Luc Mougeot	Approved Budget 2001-2002: \$1,700,000	Full-time Equivalents: 3.00
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Luc Mougeot	Geography	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Ola Smith	Animal/Poultry Sciences	40%	Ottawa
Research Officer	Brenda Lee Wilson	PolSci/International Affairs	70%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Naser Faruqui	Int'l Water Res. Develop't	60%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Renaud dePlaen	Geography	30%	Ottawa

Project Profile: Urban Agriculture and Feeding the Latin American and Caribbean Cities: Best Practices and City Consultation

IDRC Funding: CAD\$150,830

Responsible officer: Luc Mougeot

The Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC) of the United Nations Urban Development Program and Habitat (UNCHS), manages this regional project covering 30 cities. It was designed and developed by members of AGUILA, the Latin American Regional Network for Urban Agriculture, with city governments and researchers from several countries. Diagnoses of existing municipal policies on urban agriculture were completed in both experienced resource cities, and less experienced associate cities. The studies documented a wealth of information in the region on commercialization and marketing, community organization, associations, production systems and regulations, and cultural dimensions. Urban Agriculture is more than sectoral or technical: it is linked to environmental improvement, governance, social inclusion, and reduction of inequities. One of the associate cities, in Quito, Ecuador, successfully competed for a UMP-assisted consultation to further incorporate urban food production into local policies. This led to the official recognition of urban agriculture, and its inclusion in Quito's Land Use Plan, and the development of a micro-credit fund to support the production, transformation and commercialisation of urban agriculture products.

The project has succeeded in including urban agriculture among the indicators for follow-up to Agenda 21 in the region. It has disseminated results at Istanbul+5 this year at the United Nations, and has negotiated an investment plan covering urban agriculture, for Cuenca, Ecuador, under the World Bank Cities Alliance. The project has also identified tensions and areas for further research. An international seminar in April 2000, sponsored by IDRC, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, and UNCHS, was attended by 25 municipal authorities from 13 cities. It culminated in the Quito Declaration, a pledge now signed by 33 mayors to support and promote urban agriculture in their cities as a means to achieve food security and better environmental management. The Working group of Cities on Urban Agriculture will produce policy briefs based on the scaling up of experiences to develop new municipal policy frameworks.

Very active within the AGUILA network, UMP-LAC is developing the 2001 Regional Short

Course on Urban Agriculture. This will impart training in methods for municipal technical advisers, researchers and NGO leaders. Regional experts working with this project will be lecturers. The project has also fostered south-south collaboration: a project leader from La Habana advised the Municipalities of Cuenca, Ecuador, and Santiago in Dominican Republic, on how to work with local actors to set up new municipal programmes in urban agriculture. UMP-LAC is the Latin America/Caribbean Focal Point for the global Resource Centre on Urban Agriculture and Forestry. UMP's link to this global information network has increased the multi-media dissemination of project results, including through The Urban Agriculture Magazine, now being produced in Spanish by the Resource Centre.

Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health (ECOHEALTH)

Team Leader Jean Lebel	Approved Budget 2001-2002: \$2,400,000	Full-time Equivalents: 4.30
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Type	Name	Discipline	Time allocated	Location
Team Leader	Jean Lebel	Env'tal Mgt/Occ Health and Safety	100%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Robert Bazzani	Medicine/PubHealth/Epid.	70%	LACRO
Research Officer	Zsofia Orosz	Political Science	50%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Jean-Michel Labatut	Dev'tal Sociology	80%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Andres Sanchez	Pollution Control/Anthro.	60%	Ottawa
Program Officer	Renaud dePlaen	Geography	70%	Ottawa

Project Profile: An innovative, multi-step approach to building networks

IDRC Funding: CAD\$1,270,000 + \$500,000 (planned for Central America and the Caribbean)

Responsible Officers: Jean Lebel, Jean-Michel Labatut, Roberto Bazzani

To maximize the benefits of its programs in the regions and to build networks, the Ecohealth PI created **Regional Ecosystem Approaches to Human Health Regional Funds**, one for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and one for West Africa (WAF). A third one is under development for Central America and the Caribbean.

The process started with a capacity and needs-based survey of institutions and researchers in the MENA and WAF regions. Selected research teams were invited to submit preliminary proposals linking ecosystem management and human health improvement, indicating clearly their cross sectoral, participatory nature and gender integrative strategies, and the active inclusion of policy makers and decision makers to ensure sustainable interventions. Six teams from each region were selected for training workshops that took place in November 2000, after which they could further refine their preliminary proposals with the assistance of the small grants (\$20,000 each).

It is expected that these research teams are among the best positioned to answer the two Requests for Proposals opened to researchers in these regions in order to stimulate critical thinking about the links between human health and the ecosystem, develop research capacity, and generate solutions for improving human health that can be translated into the policy making process.

With the help of PBDD, the PI obtained financial support from other partners for the RFPs – the Ford Foundation is working with us in the MENA region, and the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques is our partner in the WAF region. Furthermore, the team is currently in the final stages of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Foundation. This will make it possible to increase the number of projects funded under the Regional Funds. It will also allow the PI to work closely with the United Nations Environmental Programme and the World Health Organisation providing technical expertise to the projects.

In Central America, the process is at the stage of assessing partners, with the training workshop planned in November 2001. The workshop will focus on the relationship between the ecosystem determinants and the ecology and epidemiology of Dengue, Malaria, and Chagas at the urban-rural interface. The RFP will be launched in 2002.

International Model Forest Network Secretariat (IMFNS)

Executive Director Frederick Johnson	Current IDRC funding (2000-01 and 2001-02) \$600,000	Total IDRC funding to date 1,890,000	Total Co-funding to date \$10,432,294
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1. Relevance

The success of the work of the Secretariat is demonstrated by the interest in the model forest concept. Since the inception of the Secretariat there are now some 17 model forests operating or in development in 10 countries outside of Canada. Partnering has been an important feature and the Secretariat has succeeded in attracting participation from various government and non-governmental organizations, such as Japan, CIDA, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the US Forest Service, US Aid, the World Wildlife Fund, the International Center for Research in Agroforestry, the Global Environment Facility, and the MacArthur Foundation.

The IMFNS expends professional and financial resources in the organization of meetings, workshops and other events as well as in the preparation of technical information relating to education, training, and extension to assist countries in the development of model forests through capacity building at the institutional as well as at community levels; assist countries, institutions and NGOs in securing donor support for model forests and participation in the IMFN; develop networking mechanisms to share knowledge about sustainable forest management, economic diversification, etc., through IMFN Forums, meetings, publications, newsletters. A key strength is the strong linkages to the wealth of expertise in Canadian model forests which have now some 10 years of experience in the process.

Empowerment of local communities is central to the successful application of the model forest concept. The IMFNS strives to ensure that MFs have real local community involvement and participation in decision making processes that reflect the needs and desires of local communities.

In terms of replicability of the MF concept, all MFs have the attributes of partnerships, local community involvement, and a commitment to networking, however, each is unique to its geographic, cultural and institutional setting. Replicability has been demonstrated by the fact that the number of model forests has significantly expanded since the creation of the IMFNS at IDRC.

Influence at government policy levels has been demonstrated as documented by the work of the IDRC Evaluation Unit through the application of outcome mapping techniques.

2. Links to IDRC Programming

The IMFN has strong links with IDRC's corporate program framework. Foremost would be those under Environment and Natural Resource Management as well as Social and Economic Equity.

Work with IDRC programs has included pre-model forest development in Malawi and the assessment of organizational capacities of communities and institutions for such processes and the range of institutional options for developing a model forest. This provides valuable ground work and could hopefully lead to the establishment of a model forest in Southern Africa.

IMFNS has also collaborated closely with LACRO and this has proven to be mutually beneficial and has contributed to the advancements made in the Southern Cone of Latin America.

Other links with IDRC include:

- meetings between international model forest delegations and IDRC staff
- visits of Canadian model forests and meetings with MF partners by IDRC-supported researchers
- participation by IMFN staff in some PI meetings, such as Ecosystem Health

Development of model forests to date has been mainly in developed countries and those in transition, however, interest and work is now expanding in developing countries. Opportunities for mutually beneficial linkages will be explored e.g. S.E. Asia, Connectivity Institute, Africa, etc.

3. Future Directions

In early 2000 the Canadian IMFN Steering Committee approved the mandate of the Task Force and resources for the period 2000-2002. In this period the IMFNS is focussing on promoting the creation of new model forests, in networking activities, and in internationalizing the IMFN. In the case of the latter, this has involved extensive consultations with 12 countries and other institutions such as the FAO. Originally the view was to develop a network that was highly centralized and supported through a Canadian based secretariat. This view has moved to one which is a more decentralized model involving building regional capacity for model forest development and networking which addresses regional needs and which is supported by countries and institutions in the region and by a Canadian based secretariat. Discussions are now underway to develop regional networks in Latin America and the Caribbean, in SE Asia, and at further point in time in Africa.

There is an important role for the Canadian Secretariat in this decentralized model - assisting in building the regional capacity, providing advocacy and leadership for the concept, and in building the global network for the effective transfer of experience, expertise and knowledge. In terms this transfer of technology and knowledge, the linkages with the wealth of experience and expertise in Canada will be important. For this reason the Secretariat is looking to build on the working relationship established with Canadian model forests and CUSO. Additional possible linkages are being explored e.g. Canadian Networks of Centres of Excellence for Sustainable Forest Management centred at the University of Alberta..

Environmental Management Secretariat (EMS)

Executive Director Federico Burone	Current IDRC funding (2000-01 and 2001-02) \$670,000	Total IDRC funding to date \$2,226,870	Total Co-funding to date \$555,792 Co-funding committed for 2001 \$620,000
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1. Relevance of the EMS

Local governments in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are now performing a key role in the potential implementation of effective and socially responsible environmental management policies. Their awareness in terms of these issues promotes the demand of knowledge-based instruments that facilitate participatory processes for the construction, legitimisation and sustainability of decisions at this level of government. This scenario has set forth a demand for holistic and participatory approaches to face prioritised environmental issues in urban areas.

The EMS is highly relevant in strengthening IDRC's network in urban environmental issues (including local governments, expert research centres and programs supporting institutional improvements and capacity building in LAC and in Canada); provides a regional network to coordinate activities with other IDRC programs; promotes activities and results in the donor community; fosters linkages with relevant Canadian organizations; and reacts to new opportunities by organizing activities in response to demands for knowledge on environmental management for local governments of the LAC region.

Some of the Secretariat's accomplishments:

(a) supporting research on priorities for urban environmental management policies in LAC
The EMS promotes and develops a market for applied research on environmental management where the demand comes from organisations whose decisions bear directly on the quality of the environment in LAC.

The EMS links qualified research capabilities and systems for dissemination of relevant experiences and knowledge-based products to existing initiatives on training and capacity-building at municipal level in LAC.

(b) leveraging funding for research

The EMS is successful in leveraging funding for research from municipal governments (MG) through the small grants program (CAD 1,467,800). It secures an effective interest of MGs in the projects which must be approved by local parliaments enhancing the institutional position, local follow-up and policy impacts.

(c) building a regional knowledge network on urban environmental management and local sustainable development

The EMS website facilitates partners and users to access the Secretariat's information services which include:

- final project reports,
- data on municipal governments and research centres technical teams,
- databases on experts in Latin America and the Caribbean in the EMS fields of interests, databases on donors whose activities are of interest to EMS partners,

- Q&A services on models, experiences, projects and experts,
- publication and dissemination services on news about urban environmental management projects and programmes in LAC.

2. Links to IDRC Programming

The Secretariat responds to the intervention priorities of IDRC in LAC, as approved within the framework of the CSPF. The EMS contributes to the fulfilment of IDRC's objectives in advancing the development of institutional knowledge and capabilities for the implementation of policies that respond to problems caused by social and environmental vulnerability related to the growing urban poverty in LAC.

The EMS collaborates with two of IDRC's Program Initiatives:

- (a) EMS/EcoHealth joint program to promote the implementation of low-cost technologies to monitoring water-quality developed by EcoHealth in the EMS' regional local governments network.
- (b) EMS/EcoHealth/CFP joint project to implement a knowledge-based model of sustainable local development in Central America.

3. Future Directions

The EMS will continue its ongoing activities to enhance its role as promoter of a knowledge network and facilitator of regional forums on municipal environmental policies. The substantial progress made towards the organisation of an effective regional network on the development of public policies for the management and follow-up of public-private partnership to deliver municipal environmental services on poor areas will become one of the focus areas to concentrate and grow.

In response to the priorities expressed by participants of the "International Forum on Managing Sustainable Urban Development in LAC (February, 2001)", the EMS will move forward in the organisation of a public policy network on alternatives for environmental management in the case of informal settlements in mid-sized municipalities of LAC.

Time, energy and creativity will be devoted to:

- (a) attract the financial resources and partners to expand the Secretariat's services and impact on policy discussions and actions;
- (b) consolidate EMS as a knowledge network servicing local governments in the LAC region.

Mining Policy Research Initiative (MPRI)

Responsible Officer: Peter Cooper	Current IDRC funding MPRI received its last grant in 2000-01	Total IDRC funding to date \$2,000,000	Approximate Co-funding to date \$503,037
Project Director: Cristina Echavarria			

1. Relevance

Latin America has become the principal focus of mining investment in the world. The continued growth of this sector raises major issues pertaining to management of the environment and social impact, in the context of growing mistrust among communities of interest and generally weak governance at the local level. Nevertheless, minerals development has implications for the development of Latin American and Caribbean countries as a whole, due to its importance as a source of fiscal revenues, foreign exchange and in some cases, local development. In the face of increasing confrontation between communities and mining companies over the social and environmental performance of mining at the local level, there is a strong need in the region to better understand the conditions under which mining does or does not contribute to the sustainable development of mining regions and countries, and to develop multi-stakeholder processes to monitor and evaluate performance. IDRC has a particularly important role to play in community-based research as a credible and honest broker, neither aligned with nor hostile to private sector interests. Since Canada is the leading source of this investment, this sector provides unique opportunities for IDRC to forge links between the private sector, governments in the LAC region, NGO's and Community based organisations. MPRI thus emerges as an area in which IDRC can make a difference in a very controverted, but relevant area of work. Although the level of our investment is small compared with the billions of dollars that are invested in this sector by private enterprise, our contribution is providing very relevant and compelling knowledge of the challenges and trade-offs involved, as well as supporting processes with a wide range of groups interested in promoting sustainable and equitable development in mining regions.

2. Links to IDRC Programming

A unique feature of MPRI is that it combines core funding from Programs Branch with funding of specific projects related with mining, from several PIs: Eco-Health, Minga and TEC (PI funds are not included in the above table). MPRI can thus be described as a multi-PI initiative.

This Initiative has been identified as a major regional thrust for the LACRO regional office. In addition, research on mining and sustainable development in the Americas provides an exceptional opportunity for building bridges between Canadians and Latin Americans in knowledge creation, application and dissemination. It thus constitutes a centrepiece of IDRC's proposed approach in Latin America.

3. Future Directions

MPRI will continue promoting multi-stakeholder collaboration between Canadian and Latin American organizations in support of applied public interest research, networking, dissemination and related activities, to ensure that mining is supportive of sustainable and equitable development in Latin American and the Caribbean Region. Its strategic objectives include: reducing the gap between researchers and research users by implementing a demand-driven research agenda; promoting the sharing of experiences and knowledge through research, networking, workshops, etc. by looking to identify and apply a demand-driven capacity building

agenda; identifying priority areas for public policy research and changes on mining and sustainability; mobilizing and administering funding from both IDRC and non-IDRC sources for research, institutional capacity building and facilitating public-private sector partnerships in mining regions.

Eco Plata 3: The Health of the Rio

Responsible Officer	Current IDRC funding	Total IDRC funding to date	Approximate Co-funding to date
Carlos Seré	1,600,000	2,095,684	USD\$400,000

1. Relevance

Due to their complex and dynamic character, fluvio-marine ecosystems usually require a more careful and thoughtful management than larger or more stable water bodies. The Rio de la Plata is the widest fluvio-marine water body in the world and sustains a wide range of species, some of which have important economic and nutritional value, such as "corvina"(croaker) which has a spawning and nursery ground in the Rio de la Plata coastal zone. This area is also the major fishing zone for Uruguayan artisanal fishers, which share the resource with the in-shore industrial fleet.

By supporting work in this representative estuarine environment, IDRC is developing an approach that could be applied elsewhere. Ecoplata has evolved into an integrated coastal management program, involving a range of institutions. Beyond the substantive issues being addressed (management of pilot areas; development and testing of a framework for participatory monitoring of the coastal areas; policy development), this project is an experiment in modern participatory governance of a natural resource involving a range of stakeholders. This experiment will generate lessons and experiences which could be of value beyond Uruguay and for issues other than coastal management.

2. Links to IDRC Programming

This corporate project has been administered under the MINGA umbrella and has developed a number of synergies with some of the PI's projects on subjects such as GIS, participatory planning and monitoring approaches, involvement of social scientists in natural resource management, etc. In a broader sense the project relates to IDRC's overall interest in practical and applied governance issues, as related to our activities in Natural Resource Management.

3. Future Directions

As is typical of many IDRC projects, this activity started with a relatively narrow thematic perspective. However, through interaction with Canadian partners and IDRC staff it evolved from a largely uni-disciplinary (marine sciences) program, mainly grounded in the natural sciences, to a trans-disciplinary, mission-oriented, policy-focused, research endeavour for the integrated management of the coastal area.

This process has been time and energy consuming, and will take a number of years to consolidate. The project is a joint learning opportunity for both the Uruguayan and the Canadian researchers, because the approach being promoted is a novel one in both countries. The aim is to position this project as a key example for the region of the application of the integrated coastal-management paradigm. This will require significant coaching and external support to get it to a point where IDRC can fully disengage itself.

4 Ecoplata achievements July 2000 to July 2001

During the last year Ecoplata consolidated the participatory approach to address coastal management issues working in close cooperation with local governments and communities in

selected pilot areas. An interesting case was the development of a coastal park along the shoreline. The proposal is providing very concrete inputs to the negotiation with the construction firm who won the tender to build a highway along the coast. Other issues addressed include a difficult land use conflict between squatters and the local government over a coastal area to the west of Montevideo, with wetlands of high recreational value, the development of a plastics recycling initiative with the local schools to raise community awareness of plastics pollution along the coast, several studies to address beach erosion problems, and conflicts related to the settlement of artisanal fishermen along the shoreline. These initiatives increased the visibility of the program with policymakers and the media and strongly motivated many of the researchers who increasingly realize the value of participatory research with a systems perspective.

Other important areas of work were:

- the completion of research on the reproduction of the croaker, the most important resource for artisanal fishermen. Management recommendations are being developed based on this research.
- a study of economic activity in the coastal area.
- a study of the geomorphology, landscapes and actual land use along the coast was completed and will be an input to developing rules for use and conservation of the area
- a compilation of national and local legislation was undertaken to identify legal vacuums and conflicts.
- important databases (incl. GIS) were developed and established at all participating institutions

The highlight of the year was the conference "**ECOPLATA 2001**", an event organized to raise the national awareness of the importance of appropriate coastal management, to present the results to date and discuss them with international experts, and finally to attract other donors to contribute to the next phase of the program. The event was opened by the President of the Republic, the Minister of the Environment, the Mayor of Montevideo and IDRC's President. International experts strongly endorsed the project's approach and methodologies. Stakeholders from local governments, NGOs, schools, neighbor commissions from the coastal region actively discussed the results and the next steps. The Minister of the Environment closed the event strongly endorsing ECOPLATA and committing on behalf of the Uruguayan government to continue to support the initiative.

Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Responsible Officer	Current IDRC funding CAD	Total IDRC funding to date	Approximate Co-funding to date
Peter Cooper	\$400,000 per year	IDRC funding including PI funding currently runs at about \$2M CAD per year.	USD \$360,000 per year

1. Relevance

Participation in CGIAR allows IDRC to increase the effectiveness of its support for agricultural research by coordinating efforts with other donors, and increasing the range of opportunities which we are able to identify and support. Through our membership, we are also able to influence priorities of other donors in ways which are consistent with IDRC's approach and values.

2. Links to IDRC Programming

As indicated above, numerous PIs contribute to the CGIAR system, including all of the PIs in the Environment and Natural Resource Management Program Area (CBNRM, PLAW, MINGA, SUB, and Eco-Health), and PAN. Support for these projects is thus perfectly congruent with the CSPF.

3. Future Directions

No changes are proposed in the orientation described above.